



CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII

No. 22-65

RESOLUTION

NAMING THE FIELD AT BOOTH DISTRICT PARK IN PAUOA VALLEY IN HONOR OF WILBERT "AH PING" LEE.

WHEREAS, Section 22-9.3(a)(3)(A), Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 1990 ("ROH"), states that in exceptional cases, a new or existing park, site, or facility may be named for a deceased individual if the individual: (i) has a "significant association with the park, site, or facility"; or (ii) has "contributed significantly to the community or area in which the park, site or facility is located"; and

WHEREAS, ROH Section 22-9.5(f), authorizes the City Council ("Council") to "designate a name for a new or existing park, site, facility, or any portion thereof, or memorial, consistent with the requirements set forth herein, by adoption of an appropriate resolution"; and

WHEREAS, Booth District Park is a 4.56-acre City park that includes multiple playing fields and outdoor courts, a gymnasium, a playground, and a pool; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wilbert "Ah Ping" Lee was a lifelong resident of Pauoa Valley, who lived just yards away from Booth District Park; and

WHEREAS, in 1955, at the young age of 20, Mr. Lee organized the Pauoa Athletic Club to give community youths an opportunity to play and enjoy sports, including baseball, basketball and volleyball; and

WHEREAS, in 1969, the Pauoa Athletic Club's 13- and 14-year-old P.O.N.Y. (Protect Our Neighborhood Youth) League baseball team won the P.O.N.Y. League World Series Championship, the first time a Hawai'i team had won a baseball world title; and

WHEREAS, throughout the years, the Pauoa Athletic Club also participated in and partnered with the Pauoa Police Activities League, galvanizing community members and others to volunteer and coach countless Pauoa youth baseball, basketball, and volleyball teams; and

WHEREAS, on February 11, 1976, the Council unanimously adopted Resolution 34, honoring Mr. Lee for his then 20-year involvement in youth sports, including his tireless and endless devotion and dedication to community youth, and recognizing his many achievements in the Pauoa community, including his involvement as Treasurer of the Pauoa Community Association; and



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WHEREAS, Mr. Lee worked as a civil servant for the Board of Water Supply ("BWS"), where he was recognized as the 1976 Employee of the Year and the BWS formally adopted a resolution on March 20, 1986, recognizing Mr. Lee for his more than 30 years of dedicated service to BWS and the community; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lee was also featured in *Newsweek's* "A Hundred Heroes For Our Time" Collector's Edition in 1986, as the founder of the Pauoa Athletic Club and Director of the Pauoa Police Athletic League, who coached over 5,000 children at Booth District Park seven days a week for over 30 years; and

WHEREAS, in 1992, Honolulu Mayor Frank F. Fasi recognized Mr. Lee on his retirement from the BWS after 35 years of public service, during which time he rose through the ranks from a messenger position to a Supervising Water Service Investigator II; and

WHEREAS, in addition to being recognized by the City, Mr. Lee also received the following awards and commendations:

- The Hawaii State Bar Association's Liberty Bell Award for outstanding contributions to good citizenship in the community (1970);
- Recognition by the Honolulu Elks Lodge 616 for his consistent dedication to a life of service to others (1976);
- Recognition by the Pauoa School Parent Teacher Association for more than 20 years of devoted service to the youth of Pauoa, and a Certificate of Merit from the Honolulu Police Department for distinguished service to the Police Activities League ("PAL") and the community (1977);
- The National Jefferson Award nominee for the State of Hawai'i, for over 30 years of volunteer work, spanning thousands of hours, with Pauoa community youth at Booth District Park (1986);
- The Chuck Leahey Memorial Award for outstanding service to the sport of baseball in Hawai'i (1995);
- Formal recognition by the PAL in appreciation for more than 43 years of dedicated support and service (1998);



RESOLUTION

- The Kilohana Award for Outstanding Volunteerism, awarded by Governor Benjamin J. Cayetano, upon Mr. Lee's retirement, after 52 years, as the Director of the Pauoa Athletic Club (2001); and
- The USA Freedom Corps President's Call to Service Award, presented by the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation, in recognition of Mr. Lee's commitment to making a difference through volunteer service (2007); and

WHEREAS, at age 71, Mr. Lee was featured in a *Honolulu Advertiser* story reporting that hundreds of well-wishers—including high-ranking law enforcement, legislators and entertainers—"flocked to Booth District Park to honor the volunteer identified as the 'one-man athletic department' and 'super hero,' " so that then Hawai'i U.S. Attorney, Ed Kubo, when presenting the President's Volunteer Service Award, said, in reference to Mr. Lee, that "Super heroes today are also those who raise our children and teach them citizenship, sportsmanship, honor, integrity"; and stated that Mr. Lee had mentored such Hawai'i sports luminaries as Mike Lum, Paul Brown, Nahaku Brown, Chad Owens and Derrick Low; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wilbert "Ah Ping" Lee, passed away recently, having lived a life of dedicated public service to the City and the Pauoa Community as a volunteer and coach for more than fifty years; and

WHEREAS, the Council believes that naming the field at Booth District Park for Wilbert "Ah Ping" Lee would appropriately recognize Mr. Lee's deep roots and connection to the Pauoa community, his decades of service at Booth District Park, and his enrichment of the lives of countless community members through coaching and facilitating youth participation in sports; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that the field at Booth District Park be named the Wilbert "Ah Ping" Lee Field; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council requests and authorizes the City Administration to erect appropriate signage at the field at Booth District Park, and approves the placement of such signage; and



CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII

No. 22-05

RESOLUTION

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Mayor, the Managing Director, the Director of Parks and Recreation, and the family of Wilbert "Ah Ping" Lee.

INTRODUCED BY:

Carol Johnson

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

MAR 16 2022
Honolulu, Hawai'i

Councilmembers

CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII
CERTIFICATE

RESOLUTION 22-65

Introduced: 03/16/22 By: CAROL FUKUNAGA

Committee: COUNCIL (CCL)

Title: NAMING THE FIELD AT BOOTH DISTRICT PARK IN PAUOA VALLEY IN HONOR OF WILBERT "AH PING" LEE.

Voting Legend: * = Aye w/Reservations

03/16/22	INTRO	Introduced.
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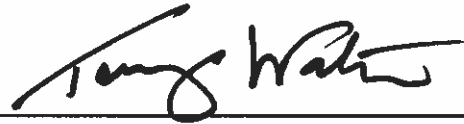
04/13/22	CCL	Adopted.
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9 AYES: CORDERO, ELEFANTE, FUKUNAGA, KIA'ĀINA, SAY, TSUNEYOSHI, TULBA,
TUPOLA, WATERS

I hereby certify that the above is a true record of action by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu on this RESOLUTION.



GLEN I. TAKAHASHI, CITY CLERK



TOMMY WATERS, CHAIR AND PRESIDING OFFICER